

S E C R E T

DDI- 8565/83
AH. ER 83-489229 NOV
1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Future Soviet Weapons Assessment [REDACTED]

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1. On 7 October you requested OSWR, in concert with SOVA, to conduct a future weapons assessment of the overall military threat, by mission area, that the Soviets are likely to pose during the 1990s. I am including with this memorandum the results of that assessment, presented as a series of charts, graphs, and tables with a summary page showing the major conclusions of the study. Since your request was prompted by the need for a U.S. balance between expenditures for a possible U.S. manned space station and the coverage of major future Soviet threats, we have tried to portray the threat posed by the Soviet space program in the mid-1990s, together with other Soviet threats. The results of our study are presented as separate stand-alone charts, each with an accompanying description. [REDACTED]

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2. OSWR assessed about 45 Soviet weapons systems, attributing to each a threat index based on the technical improvements and the deployment expected in 1995, together with the breadth of application expected for each weapon. This assessment, together with SOVA estimates of future Soviet force levels, current R&D efforts and our estimates of the Soviet defense spending patterns has one principal bottom line: The projections of Soviet forces show increments to force capabilities in all mission areas and we expect that the pattern of across-the-board force development will continue during the next 10-15 years. To a good approximation, the 1995 threat posed by weapons in each major Soviet mission area will be proportional to what it is today, but study suggests that the Soviets will roughly double their overall weapon effectiveness by 1995 - a threat improvement that could be offset by U.S. and allied weapons developments. [REDACTED]

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Robert M. Gates

Attachments: As Stated

[REDACTED]

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DDI/OSWR/SSD, [REDACTED]

23 November 1983

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